Annual Report on CVC

839. SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are placing the annual report of the Central Vigilance Commission for discussion before the Parliament soon;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSION AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The last annual report of the Central Vigilance Commission for the year 1997 has already been laid on the Table of the House on 11.3.1999.

Bill on Right to Information

840. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Press Council of India has drafted a bill on the right to information;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to circulate the bill to elicit views of villagers; and

(c) the steps proposed to enlighten villagers about minimum wages, women's rights and environmental issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSION AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) With a view to introduce greater transparency and openness in the functioning of Government and public bodies, the Government had, in January, 1997, constituted a Woking Group on

"Right to Information and Promotion of Open and Transparent Government". The draft Bill on 'Right to Information' received from the Press Council of India was made available to the working Group for consideration during its deliberations. The working Group submitted its report along with a draft Bill on Freedom of Information. The report of the Working Group has been processed and a Bill for Freedom of Information has been drafted. The Bill is presently under examination for introduction in Parliament.

Rules and Regulations of Central Government Employees

†841. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what rules, regulations/procedures have been adopted by the Ministries/Departments of Central Government for promotions;

(b) whether the said rules are ipso facto applicable on all the instrumentalities of Central Government;

(c) whether promotional rules of instrumentalities are quite different from promotional rules and procedures implemented in the Central government; and

(d) if so, the justification thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSION AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Promotions in the jobs of the Central Government have been linked to availability of vacancies in the higher grade except in the case of technical and scientific personnel where the Government of India introduced the Flexible Complementing Scheme. The promotion policy is based on the premise that the more competent amongst employees should get faster promotion. This has reflected itself in adoption of the Limited Departmental Competitive Examination as a mode of promotion, introduction of the concept of "selection" in promotion against the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.